SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

LANSING, MICHIGAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, November 9, 2005

CONTACT: Tom Lenard Senate Democratic Caucus 517-373-8421

SEN DEMS STRENGHTEN MEASURE TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

LANSING- The state Senate today approved a Senate Democratic Caucus measure to ensure that any displaced homeowner would receive extra compensation if government uses their property to build a road or bridge. The amendment was adopted as part of an effort by the Senate to protect the rights of private property owners.

"Citizens should not have to live in fear of losing their homes," said Sen. Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit), sponsor of the amendment. "This measure will help recognize their sacrifice in the rare cases where they must move."

The Legislature began considering this issue following a U.S. Supreme Court decision several months ago that could make it more likely for public entities to seize private property. Michigan already has strong protections in place, but the legislation supported in a bipartisan fashion today would increase protections for homeowners.

"Homeowner's rights should be preserved and protected," said Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). "Our work on this front is an important step in the right direction."